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OLC 68-0511

28 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Chester D. Smith, General Counsel,
House Committee on Un-American Activities [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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1. On this date [REDACTED] I met with Chester D. Smith, General Counsel for the House Committee on Un-American Activities, in connection with his request of yesterday [REDACTED] [REDACTED] be made available for an appearance before HCUA next Wednesday or Thursday. Mr. Smith was formerly Deputy Director for Internal Security for the Department of Army and was also a member of the Security Committee for USIB. He was cleared by the Agency in 1958

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2. I advised Mr. Smith that I had taken his request up with the Director, that there were a number of problems involved in this situation and that the Director had suggested that [REDACTED] discuss these problems with [REDACTED] then proceeded to give Mr. Smith a complete background briefing [REDACTED] covering his emergence

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[REDACTED] and his relationship [REDACTED] pointed out that [REDACTED] interview [REDACTED] was strictly [REDACTED] idea and one which we had no practical way of preventing. He went on to say that, on reflection, [REDACTED] the article as printed confirmed our earlier advice to him that such an interview was unwise. Jameson [REDACTED] has no intention of having any other press interviews in the immediate future. It was clear from all of this that any appearance [REDACTED] in a Government forum at this time would be detrimental [REDACTED] to the U. S. position [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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25X1 3. Mr. Smith said he could appreciate the points which we had
made and he was confident that under the circumstances the Committee
members who had expressed an interest [] would
be willing to put this off. It was agreed, however, that at such time
25X1 as [] might become available for an appearance before one of the
Congressional Committees, that HCUA would be given the prior claim to
him. (In this context I reiterated our policy in dealing with HCUA and
the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on a first come first served
basis when requests are made for persons in this category. I told
25X1 Smith that we had no request from the Internal Security Subcommittee
[]

25X1 4. There was some discussion by Mr. Smith of the possibility
of closed versus open session []
along with the possibility of taking his testimony now for publication
at an appropriate date in the future. I pointed out that in view of the
25X1 fluid situation [] it seemed that any testimony which
might be pertinent at this time might be completely out of date in a
later publication. This would then necessitate another session with
25X1 [] at that time. Mr. Smith said he thought this was a valid point
and added that it would appear desirable to wait and talk []
when it seemed that publication of his testimony might be feasible.
25X1 I pointed out that we were particularly touchy about the situation at
this time and that an appearance at a later date was certainly preferable
from our standpoint.

25X1 5. Mr. Smith was most cooperative and understanding throughout
our meeting with him which lasted approximately 50 minutes. We
told him that should he have any questions [] he should
feel free to contact us and we would be happy to keep him informed.
Mr. Smith said he knew Mr. Helms and asked that his best regards be
conveyed to him.

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Acting Legislative Counsel

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